

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CARR-11

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic John Diggs Copper Mine (site)

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 1 1/4 miles south of Middleburg on Johnsville Road ___ not for publication

city, town Middlesburg ___x vicinity of congressional district Sixth

state Maryland county Carroll

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture ___ museum
___ building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial ___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational ___ private residence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment ___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government ___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial ___ transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	___ military ___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll Couty Courthouse Annex liber

street & number 55 N. Court Street folio

city, town Westminster state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. CARR-11

Condition

☐ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☒ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☐ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

see #8. Significance

8. Significance

Survey No. CARR-11

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1740's

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

SUMMARY:

Documentary records show that John Diggs was operating a copper mine in the vicinity of Middlesburg as early as 1742. Evidentce of the mine operations were present on the Charles Diehl Farm in the 1950's.

ISTORY:

The June 1952 Newsletter of the HHistorical Society of Carroll County provides the following documentation of the John Diggs Copper Mine: "Situated on a tract of land called Clarks Discovery; surveyed on June 14, 1734 for Nathaniel Wickham, Jr. Assigned by Wickham to John Diggs on August 14, 1736; and patented to John Diggs on November 20, 1737 for 100 acres; now the farm of Charles Diehl, of Middleburg, Carroll County, MD.

This copper mine is located on the northeast side of Little Pipe Creek, at about one and one quarter miles south of the Village of Middleburg in Carroll County.

This copper mine was apparently in operation as early as October 11, 1742 as on that date John Diggs petitioned the Assembly of Maryland praying leave to bring in a bill to exempt such hands as are actually employed about his copper works, from the payment of levies, from training or mustering, and clearing the highways, for such a term of years as shall be thought reasonable. (Maryland Archives No. 42, folio 281).

According to the statements of the present owner, Mr. Charles Diehl, this was a very extensive operation judging from what he had seen several years ago when he was able to enter the mine and explore it. He was then able to penetrate some of the tunnels as far as two hundred yards.

The entrance to the mine is now closed, and apparently the tunnels are caving in in several places as large funnel shaped impressions are to be found in the woodland above the mine.

In Maryland Archives No. 42, folio 431 is stated as follows: "An act encouraging the raising of copper ore, erecting of stamping mills and copper works and making of copper, within this Province:

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. CARR-11

Historical Society of Carroll County. Newsletter. Vol. 1, No.2. June 1952 p. 3-4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joe Getty

organization Carroll County Dept. of Planning date September 1984

street & number 225 N. Center Street telephone 848-4500

city or town Westminster state MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

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CARR-11

8. Significance

HISTORY:

Whereas John Diggs by his humble petition to this present (Sept. 21-Oct. 29, 1742) General Assembly hath set forth that he hath undertaken a copper work wick if it should succeed will not only be of advantage to him but also to the public and forasmuch in order to carry on so considerable a work it will be absolutely necessary for him to import or otherwise to retain in his service a great number of experienced workmen so that he must unavoidably be at a bast expense before he can bring such work to any tolerable perfection so as to reap any benefit terefrom wherefore for his better encouragement be it enacted by the Right Honorable the Lord Proprietary by and with the advice and consent of his Lordship Governor and the Upper and Lower Houses of Assembly and the authority of the same that all such workmen and laborers as shall be by him constantly employed in the carrying on of such useful and beneficiary work or works shall be exempt from paying of levies for the term of seven years provided the number of such workmen as shall be levyfree shall not exceed fifty taxable persons; and whereas the making of copper or raising copper ore within this province will be advantageous to the trade of Great Britton as well as beneficial to the inhabitants of Maryland. Be it enacted by the authority, advice and consent aforesaid that no laboring person who shall be employed in the carrying on of the aforesaid copper work or works or in providing any materials of any sort, nature or kind soever for the furtherance and carrying on the same, be obliged in clearing or assist in clearing of their own works or service in the military or be obliged to attend at any training or musters except upon very extraordinary occasions provided such laboring persons shall not be at any time employed in the working of tobacco, corn or other grains or other planters work."

In view of the fact that very little land in this general area was owned at that time, and very few settlers were in this vicinity it is reasonably safe to presume that this was the first copper mine undertaken in this general area.

(The above-mentioned copper mine was recently located by Dr. Arthur G. Tracey in the course of extensive research on the old Digges Wagon Road . . . This article is the first in a series of hitherto unpublished documents which the Society plans to issue from time to time.)"

3563 III NE
(EMMITSBURG)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

UNION BRIDGE, MD.

QUADRANGLE

7.5 minute series

